**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 1, 5, 10-12, and 17 as indicated in the following listing of claims, which replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A resource manager operable to control allocation of a resource to competing computing processes including at least a first process and a second process, the resource manager being responsive to identification of a thread for the first process requesting allocation of the resource, when the resource is already allocated to a thread for the second process, to establish a joining function to the thread for the second process and to provide an indication to the first process of an expected time before the resource will become available determined based on a call duration value of a communication associated with the second process, the first process retrying requesting of the resource at a later time based on the indication,

wherein the joining function ~~being~~ is operable to notify the resource manager on termination of the thread for the second process, and the resource manager ~~being~~ is operable in response to termination of the thread for the second process to allocate the resource to the thread for the first process.

2. (Original) The resource manager of claim 1, wherein the resource manager comprises object oriented computer software operable in an object oriented environment.

3. (Previously Presented) The resource manager of claim 2, wherein the first and second processes are software applications operable in the object oriented environment.

4. (Original) The resource manager of claim 3, wherein the software applications comprise one or more bean objects registrable with the resource manager.

5. (Currently Amended) The resource manager of claim 1, wherein the resource manager comprises one or more ~~object~~ objects of the Java language.

6. (Original) The resource manager of claim 1, comprising an object for acquiring a device.

7. (Previously Presented) The resource manager of claim 1, wherein the join function is a join of the type provided in a Java language environment, and a language event passively releases a resource on termination of a thread identified by the join function.

8. (Original) The resource manager of claim 1 operable to control access by a plurality of telecommunications applications to a telephony device in a telecommunications apparatus.

9. (Previously Presented) The resource manager of claim 8, comprising a dispatch mechanism for controlling dispatching of a call received by the telephony device to the telecommunications applications.

10. (Currently Amended) A resource manager operable to control allocation of a resource to competing computing processes including at least a first process and a second process, the resource manager comprising:

means responsive to identification of a thread for the first process requesting allocation of the resource, when the resource is already allocated to a thread for the second process, ~~to establish~~ for establishing a joining function to the thread for the second process and ~~to provide~~ for providing an indication to the first process of an expected time before the resource will become available determined based on a call duration value of a communication associated with the second process, the first process retrying requesting of the resource at a later time based on the indication; and

means responsive to the joining function notifying the resource manager on termination of the thread for the second process to allocate the resource to the thread for the first process.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer software resource manager on a data carrier, the resource manager being operable to control allocation of a resource to competing computing processes including at least a first process and a second process, the resource manager being responsive to identification of a thread for the first process requesting allocation of the resource, when the resource is already allocated to a thread for the second process, to establish a joining function to the thread for the second process and to provide an indication to the first process of an expected time before the resource will become available determined based on a call duration value of a communication

associated with the second process, the first process retrying requesting of the resource at a later time based on the indication,

wherein the joining function ~~being~~ is operable to notify the resource manager on termination of the thread for the second process, and the resource manager ~~being~~ is operable in response to termination of the thread for the second process to allocate the resource to the thread for the first process.

12. (Currently Amended) A telecommunications apparatus, comprising:

at least one telephony resource for connection to a telecommunications network; and

a resource manager for controlling allocation of the telephony resource to competing computing processes including at least a first process and a second process, the resource manager being responsive to identification of a thread for the first process requesting allocation of the resource, when the resource is already allocated to a thread for the second process, to establish a joining function to the thread for the second process and to provide an indication to the first process of an expected time before the resource will become available determined based on a call duration value of a communication associated with the second process, the first process retrying requesting of the resource at a later time based on the indication,

wherein the joining function ~~being~~ is operable to notify the resource manager on termination of the thread for the second process, and the resource manager ~~being~~ is operable in response to termination of the thread for the second process to allocate the resource to the thread for the first process.

13. (Original) The telecommunications apparatus of claim 12, wherein the telephony resource is an interface to the telecommunications network.

14. (Original) The telecommunications apparatus of claim 12, wherein the telephony resource is a modem.

15. (Original) The telecommunications apparatus of claim 12, wherein the computing processes comprise call processing applications.

16. (Previously Presented) The telecommunications apparatus of claim 15, wherein the call processing applications comprise at least one application selected from:

a call answering application;

a voicemail application;

a facsimile application; and

a data application.

17. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of managing allocation of a resource to competing processes including at least a first process and a second process, the method including:

responding to identification of a thread for the first process requesting allocation of the resource, when the resource is already allocated to a thread for the second process, to establish a joining function to the thread for the second process and to provide an

indication to the first process of an expected time before the resource will become available determined based on a call duration value of a communication associated with the second process, the first process retrying requesting of the resource at a later time based on the indication; and

responding to the joining function notifying termination of the thread for the second process to allocate the resource to the thread for the first process.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the join function is a join function of the type provided in a Java language environment, and a language event passively releases a resource on termination of a thread identified by the join function.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17, for controlling access by a plurality of telecommunications applications to a telephony device in a telecommunications apparatus.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the telephony device provides an interface to a telecommunications network.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the telephony device is a modem.